

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (Canceled)**

1 **Claim 2 (Currently Amended):** A multisystematic
2 volume rendering image processing system comprising:
3 a plurality of image data server computers,
4 a plurality of image display units,
5 one or more common volume data storage units for
6 storing volume data necessary for the image display
7 units, and
8 a server manager for managing data copying via a
9 network, wherein the image data server computers receive
10 volume data necessary for formation of images requested
11 by the image display units from the volume data storage
12 unit via the network, process image data in accordance
13 with image requests concerning angle and position issued
14 from the image display units, and transmit image results
15 to the image display units via the network;
16 the image display units each including an input
17 section and an output section transmit the image requests
18 entered through the input sections to the image data

19 server computers via the network, receive the image
20 results processed by the image data server computers and
21 output the image results to the output sections;
22 the volume data storage unit transmits the necessary
23 volume data to the image data server computers in
24 accordance with requests issued from the image data
25 server computers; and
26 the server manager makes a decision to switch data
27 processing for the plurality of image display units so
28 that a part of the data processing performed by an
29 operative one of the image data server computers will be
30 replaced by data processing performed by another
31 suspended one including a state of low load of the image
32 data server computers ~~The multisystematic volume~~
33 ~~rendering image processing system as claimed in claim 1,~~
34 wherein when the server manager decides the switching, if
35 the same volume data as the volume data handled by the
36 operative image data server computer are not present in
37 the suspended image data server computer as a destination
38 of the decided switching, the server manager performs a
39 control function wherein the volume data from the volume
40 data storage unit is transmitted to the destination image
41 data server computer and additional information is copied
42 from the operative image data server computer to the

43 destination image data server computer, and the
44 destination image data server computer is made to execute
45 the data processing.

1 **Claim 3 (Currently Amended):** The multisystematic
2 volume rendering image processing system as claimed in
3 claim 2[[1]], wherein the decision to switch data
4 processing is based on an~~when~~ overload condition of the
5 operative~~is imposed on computation of volume rendering~~
6 ~~which is being carried out by a first image data server~~
7 ~~computer, the server manager judges whether to make a~~
8 ~~part of the volume rendering be handed over to a second~~
9 ~~image data server computer having idle computation~~
10 ~~resources or not, and~~
11 ~~— when a decision is made that the part of the volume~~
12 ~~rendering is handed over, the server manager performs a~~
13 ~~control function wherein volume data handled by the first~~
14 ~~image data server computer is transmitted from the volume~~
15 ~~data storage unit to the second image data server~~
16 ~~computer and additional information is copied from the~~
17 ~~first image data server computer to the second image data~~
18 ~~server computer, and the second image data server~~
19 ~~computer is made to execute the data processing which is~~
20 ~~heretofore executed by the first image data server~~

21 computer.

1 **Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** The multisystematic
2 volume rendering image processing system as claimed in
3 claim 2[[1]], wherein the server manager stores
4 identification names of the volume data transmitted from
5 the volume data storage unit and destination image data
6 server computers in a memory in advance;

7 when the volume data storage unit is requested to
8 send volume data, the server manager inquires of the
9 memory whether the same volume data are already sent or
10 not, after the volume data is sent from the volume data
11 storage unit;

12 when the same volume data are already sent, the
13 server manager judges whether the volume data are
14 collected to one of the image data server computers or
15 not; and

16 when a decision is made that the volume data are
17 collected to one of the image data server computers, the
18 ~~server manager performs a control function wherein~~
19 additional information is copied to that~~from an image~~
20 data server computer ~~to be suspended to another image~~
21 ~~data server computer as a destination of the decided~~
22 switching~~handover of the volume data and the handover~~

Appl. No.: 10/812,770

Amdt. Dated: September 25, 2006

Reply to Office action of: July 14, 2006

23 ~~destination and that~~ image data server computer is made
24 to execute the data processing ~~which is heretofore~~
25 ~~executed by the image data server computer to be~~
26 ~~suspended.~~

1 **Claim 5 (Canceled)**